

Introduction to Indexing and AYP: Idaho's Accountability Plan

Federal approval in July 2009, after the ISAT appeals window started, allowed the offering of the Indexing model as an automatic appeal when schools and districts were not making AYP under the Legacy system. While the SDE and OSBE were pleased to be able to offer this automatic appeal to districts, many questions may remain out in the districts concerning this new system so recently introduced. Below is a brief synopsis of this new calculation method and a review of basic AYP calculations using the new target percentages associated with it.

Indexing employs a calculation that includes Basic students as .5 proficient, making students in three performance levels, Advanced, Proficient and Basic, part of the AYP proficiency calculations. Because this group of students has been added to the population of student contributing to the picture of proficiency in Idaho, new targets had to be created to account for this change in the 'proficient' population. Below is an example of an Indexing calculation and a chart of the new targets for the Indexing system. This new system acknowledges and rewards the hard work educators and students have put forth in working to create movement from the Below Basic performance level to the Basic performance level on the way to becoming fully Proficient.

Example: 100 students in school

60 score Proficient= 60 proficient scores
20 score Advanced= 20 proficient scores
10 score Basic= 5 proficient scores
10 score Below Basic= 0 proficient scores
Total Proficiency rate=85% proficient

AYP Proficiency Targets				
% Proficient or Advanced Needed Under Indexing				
	2008-09 2009-10	2010-11 2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Reading	85.6 %	90.4 %	95.2 %	100 %
Mathematics	83.0%	88.7 %	94.3 %	100 %
Language Usage	75.1%	83.4 %	91.7 %	100 %

AYP calculations center on making sure the whole group [school or district] as well as the subgroups within the whole all are moving toward proficiency or have achieved it. For each group there are two targets, **Proficiency and Participation**.

Taking Reading, 85.6% Proficiency required, as an example, let's move through the AYP calculation process.

❖ Participation:

Looking at Participation first, 95% has always been the target from the beginning of NCLB to satisfy AYP for all groups. The first test is whether the school made the target outright. If the target is made, say at 98% participation, the next step is not needed. If the target is not made outright, then a rolling three year average including this year and the two previous is employed. If this average reaches the 95% target, then the school makes AYP for Participation. **Note: All groups of 10 or more receive Participation calculations.** If a group has 40 or fewer students, a two student not testing grace is allowed. For example, if the SWD group had 20 students and 2 did not test, the participation rate would be 90%, but the school would still make the target because of the 2 student grace rule. **Important: this rule only applies to Participation calculations.**

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❖ Proficiency:

Proficiency targets, also referred to as Annual Measurable Objectives [AMO], are applied to all groups and subgroups.

Taking Reading as an example where 85.6% Proficiency was required in 2008-09 under Indexing, let's move through the AYP Proficiency calculation process.

First, was the target made outright? If so, no more calculations are required. If not, then a second separate calculation method, Safe Harbor, is employed.

The first requirement in Safe Harbor is determining if the population in question showed at least a 10% decrease in not proficient scores using the Indexing system of calculation when compared to the previous year. If this requirement is not met, the school does not make AYP for Proficiency for this group, nor is the second calculation run.

SWD Reading 2007-08= 60% Not Proficient

SWD Reading 2008-09= 50% Not Proficient $60\% - 50\% = 10\%$

This 10% raw decrease is divided by 60 [the previous year basis for comparison]=16.6 % decrease of not proficient scores.

Because the first requirement has been met, then the second step is calculated.

Now we look to see if the 3rd Indicator Target, *Language Usage [LU] for most schools has been met. The LU Target under Indexing for 2008-09 is 75.1%. If this target is not made outright, we look to see if the % proficient is equal to or higher than the previous year. If it is, then both requirements have been met, and the school makes AYP proficiency for this group.

SWD LU 2008-09= 63% Proficient

SWD LU 2007-08= 57% Proficient

63% - 57% = 6% increase in Proficiency satisfies 3rd Indicator portion of Safe Harbor

* Note: A few districts choose the decrease in below basic percent or increase in advanced percent in Math and Reading as their third indicator. This choice can be revised annually by districts by contacting the SDE by September 15.

- ✓ **Important Note: Beyond its Safe Harbor use, proficiency in LU must be met in the All group [School Level and District Level], but not in the sub-groups.**
- ✓ **Proficiency calculations are not done for groups of fewer than 34 students.**

Important notes:

Only scores from continuously enrolled students count in proficiency calculations. To be so considered, students must enroll on or before the first 56 CALENDAR days of school and stay enrolled through the regular test window, not including the makeup week.

Scores from students coded LEPX1, LEPX2, SPEX1 and SPEX2 are automatically included in proficiency and participation calculations when there are already 34 regular LEP or SPE students in those groups.

Proficient or advanced scores from retesting 11th and 12th graders are included in proficiency calculations, but not in participation calculations.

9th grade scores are not included in any AYP calculations.

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- ❖ **Graduation Rate [GR] as Third Indicator for High Schools employs 3 ways to make the AYP target of 90% in the 'All' group [school or district level] for participation. There is not participation target for the 'All' group.**

- 1. Did the school make the Target of 90%?**
- 2. If not, did the school exceed the previous year's GR by 2%?**
- 3. If not, a 2 or 3 year rolling average is employed to see if the average GR exceeds the previous year's GR by 2%.**

Note: For Groups smaller than 34, an additional option, losing no more than one student to drop out per year, is added.

- ✓ **Important Notes:**
The window for cleaning up GR data [exiting student, etc.] closes in January of each year by Federal mandate and is not part of the summer ISAT appeals process.

- ✓ If a student transfers to your school, they become part of the 4 year cohort unless and until they transfer to another school
- ✓ A student with a GED does not count for or against a school's graduation rate

This handout contains only some of the main points of the process of calculating AYP. The Accountability Workbook [found a the link below] contains comprehensive information on Idaho's accountability methods and procedures.

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/FederalReq/>

The Idaho Code governing education is an additional resource for some of these issues.

<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa08/0203.pdf>